

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ACTION ITEM
BOARD MEMBER INITIATIVE**

SUBJECT: **Proposal for Partnership Opportunities with the Town of Leesburg and Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority– Veterans Park**

ELECTION DISTRICT: Leesburg

CRITICAL ACTION DATE: At the pleasure of the Board

STAFF CONTACTS: Monica N. Filyaw, Staff Aide to Supervisor Reid
Stacy Carey, Staff Aide to Supervisor Higgins

PURPOSE: To direct County staff to begin discussions with Town of Leesburg staff and NVRPA in order to explore potential opportunities to develop Veterans Park.

RECOMMENDATION: The Town of Leesburg passed a resolution requesting financial assistance to assist in the development of Veterans Park at Balls Bluff. Supervisors Reid and Higgins recommend that the Board of Supervisors direct County staff to begin discussions with Town of Leesburg and NVRPA staff in order to explore potential opportunities to jointly develop Veterans Park and that staff report back to the Board of Supervisors on their discussions and provide options for funding if the partnership is feasible.

BACKGROUND: Veterans Park, located at 42314 Balls Bluff Road in the Leesburg District, is an eighty-six acre park adjacent to Balls Bluff Regional Park, which is operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). The Leesburg Town Council approved the most current master plan of the site in April 2012. The park will remain more passive in nature with pavilions, trails, frisbee golf, and a potential off leash dog area. The unique feature of the site is the river access for non-motorized boats. Plans identify a kayak/canoe barn for storage of watercraft. The park is also proposed to tie into the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail administered by the National Parks Service.

ISSUES: The closing of Beaverdam Reservoir highlighted the County's limited availability of water access for non-motorized watercraft. Veterans Park has the potential for increased access to the Potomac River for all County residents with on-site storage for watercraft. There is no public, direct boat access to the Potomac River between White's Ford Park north of this site and Algonkian Regional Park, which are both operated by NVRPA.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Leesburg Town Council has requested a financial contribution of \$4,000,000 from the County to assist in developing Veterans Park. However, the goal of this initiative is to merely investigate the feasibility of developing Veterans Park.

DRAFT MOTION(S):

1. I move that the Board of Supervisors direct County staff to begin discussions with Town of Leesburg and NVRPA staff in order to explore potential opportunities to jointly develop Veterans Park and that staff report back to the Board of Supervisors on their discussions and provide options for funding if the partnership is feasible.

OR

2. I move an alternate motion.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Town Of Leesburg Resolution, Adopted March 25, 2014
2. Map of Veterans Park

The Town of
**Leesburg,
Virginia**

PRESENTED March 25, 2014

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-036

ADOPTED March 25, 2014

A RESOLUTION: REQUESTING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE COUNTY OF LOUDOUN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000 TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF VETERANS PARK AT BALLS BLUFF

WHEREAS, the Town of Leesburg acquired 86 acres of land along the Potomac River in March, 2000 that is immediately adjacent to Balls Bluff Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council approved the most current master plan for the site in April, 2012 that maintains the historical and passive nature of the setting; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition cost paid by the Town for the 86 acres was approximately two million dollars; and

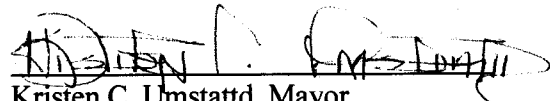
WHEREAS, the development costs for the park is four million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to develop this park site for the use and enjoyment of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council respectfully submits this request to the County of Loudoun in order for Town residents to receive their share of recreational amenities from taxes paid as Loudoun County residents.

THEREFORE, RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia that the Town Council respectfully requests a financial contribution from the County of Loudoun in the amount of \$4,000,000 to assist in funding the development of Veterans Park at Balls Bluff.

PASSED this 25th day of April, 2014.


Kristen C. Umstattd, Mayor
Town of Leesburg

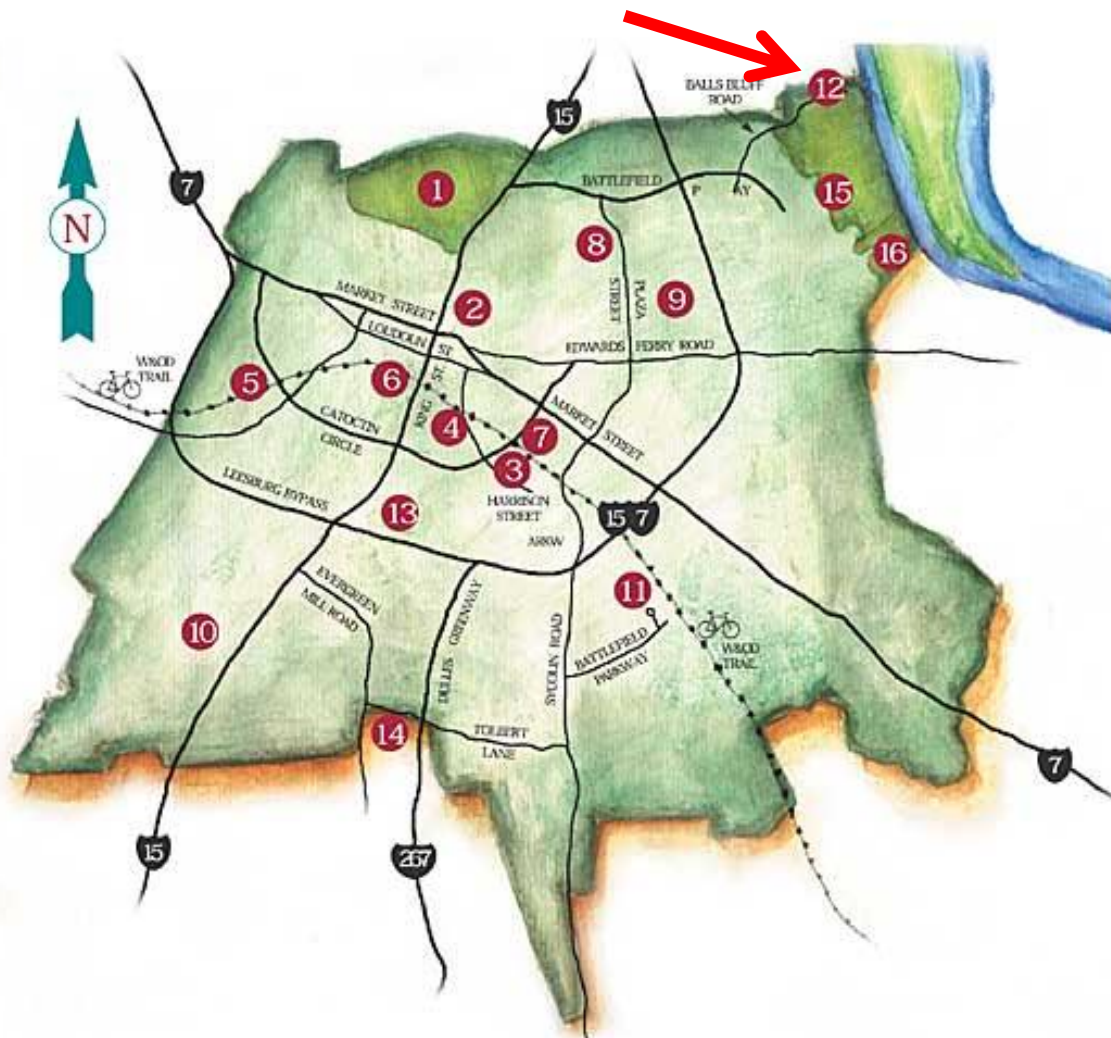
ATTEST:


Clerk of Council

12. Veterans Park at Balls Bluff
42314 Balls Bluff Rd. 20176



(86 acres) Permanent access to be provided in the future. A passive use master plan has been developed for proposed uses of the park.



Town of Leesburg Parks